

Appl. No. : 09/980,559
Filed : May 14, 2002

*If no limit to
SEQ ID NO. 2 or 3
102 (b) rejection*

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 and 12-36 without prejudice, amend Claims 2-5 and 37, and add Claims 38 and 39.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A purified and isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes human hepatitis C virus of genotype 2a, said molecule capable of expressing/said virus when transfected into cells and further capable of infectivity in vivo ^{having} ~~The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said molecule encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or encodes an amino acid sequence that differs from that of SEQ ID NO: 2 by < 2 % at the amino acid level.~~

3. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein said molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~or comprises a nucleic acid sequence that differs from that of SEQ ID NO: 1 by < 2% at the nucleotide level.~~

4. (Currently amended) A DNA construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2 ~~or 38~~ ^{or 4} ~~isol~~

5. (Currently amended) A DNA construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3 ~~or 39~~

6. (Original) An RNA transcript of the DNA construct of claim 4.

7. (Original) An RNA transcript of the DNA construct of claim 5.

8. (Original) A cell transfected with the DNA construct of claim 4.

9. (Original) A cell transfected with the DNA construct of claim 5.

10. (Original) A cell transfected with the RNA transcript of claim 6.

11. (Original) A cell transfected with the RNA transcript of claim 7.

12-36 (Canceled)

37. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, 3, 38, or 39 ~~+~~ suspended in a suitable amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or excipient.

38. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein said molecule encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

39. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 3, wherein said molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.